

**Opening Statement**  
**Congressman Ralph Hall (R-TX)**  
**Ranking Member**  
**Committee on Science and Technology**

Full Committee Markup

- H.R.4174, the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2008
- HR 5618, National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008

June 25, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that this Committee is marking up these bills today. Each of them addresses issues that are of national importance.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee's work on the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments continues its tradition of ensuring the continuation of programs that produce sound science. H.R. 5618, reauthorizes a program that brings local, state and federal resources together to do research on issues that are important today. This bill also encourages regional collaboration on research projects, recognizing that problems do not stop at the state border.

Additionally, H.R. 4174 organizes the federal government's approach to research and monitoring of ocean acidification. Oceans are invaluable resources, essential to our collective well-being. Although the government is conducting some research and monitoring of ocean acidification, it is being done in a very ad hoc manner--most of the time as part of another project. Due to the potential impacts of ocean acidification, this phenomenon requires a comprehensive federal plan that will produce the sound science upon which we can make informed decisions on how to mitigate and adapt to it.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and your staff for working with us on these bills before us today.

I yield back the balance of my time.